



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Release of the Annual State Department Human Rights Report

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 9, 2006

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Permanent Council that the U.S. Department of State's 2005 Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices were released yesterday in Washington.

These reports seek to be objective and factual. All information included is carefully cross-checked and comes from a variety of sources.

This resource should prove useful to the OSCE's work and to the work of participating States, as we seek to close the gaps between theory and implementation of OSCE human rights commitments. As the founding principles of the OSCE make clear, respect for human rights also contributes to international security.

The entire report is available on the Internet at www.state.gov. We have sent to all participating States the text of their specific country reports by email. These should be waiting for you when you return to your office after the Permanent Council.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.